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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON THE OAS, VISA REVOCATION AND
BOLIVIA, JUNE 08, 2005

1. On 06/07, the Tegucigalpa-based liberal daily "La Tribuna" published an editorial entitled, "Another one falls." "We had already anticipated where Bolivia's chaotic situation would lead. A profound political and social crisis pushes it towards ungovernability."

"Everything happens in front of the OAS, impotent in the face of conflicts. Some, like the U.S., maintain that the OAS should watch over democracies, while others are against intervention. There are others who prefer to act on facts."

"The truth is that they have their hands up in the air in this crisis of ungovernability crisis that is now so frequent. Everything happens so slowly in the OAS, a bureaucratic hemisphere without a sense of urgency."

"Skeptical Honduran politicians ignore that this country is presenting similar symptoms. If they don't protect themselves, giving hope instead of hate and divisionism, one day we will have a great scare."

2. The Tegucigalpa-based moderate paper "El Heraldito" published an editorial entitled "Corruption and the Embassy." "Confirmed revocation of public prosecutor Yuri Melara's visa is a definitive step towards the International Fight against Corruption."

"Although it is clear that it's about preserving U.S. national interest, the U.S. decision was seen as a new and effective weapon in fighting corruption in countries like ours. But until now visa revocation from politicians and former public officers has been questionable and justice hasn't been able to act against corrupt actions."

"Honduras and the U.S. signed the OAS Inter-American Convention against corruption in 1996 which establishes that the countries will give reciprocal assistance and will be able to investigate or try corruption acts."

"Hopefully the confirmation of the visa revocation from the number two man in the Public Ministry will enable Honduran justice to have access to the necessary information to put on trial those who disappointed Honduran peoples' trust."

3. The San Pedro Sula-based liberal daily "La Prensa" published an editorial entitled "Bolivia." "Bolivian president's resignation is one more step towards anarchy in the South American country and evidence of another failure of democracy."

"In Fort Lauderdale the debate arrived in the OAS General Assembly. Juan Ignacio Siles, Bolivian Foreign Minister, pointed out on Sunday that the problem was exclusively a Bolivian matter, on Monday he demanded support from the hemispheric organization."

"Bolivia, the South American country with highest level of poverty, second largest gas reserves after Venezuela, has experienced continuous punches and counterpunches that created an unbalanced social ambience and violence for the majority of Bolivians."

"Poverty, discrimination and despotism are the explosive cocktail's ingredients that periodically shake the country. Where democracy is handled by words and not by facts it's impossible to live in peace, strengthen justice and assure liberty."

Palmer